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QUESTION OF CRITERIA FOR GRANTING OF OBSERVER STATUS IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Report of the Sixth Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Silvia A. FERNANDEZ de GURMENDI (Argentina)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Question of criteria for granting of observer status in the General Assembly" was included in the agenda of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly at the request of the United States of America (A/49/231).

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1994, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Sixth Committee.

3. The Sixth Committee considered the item at its 7th, 10th, 13th and 40th meetings on 6, 12 and 19 October and 25 November 1994. The summary records of those meetings contain the views of representatives who spoke during the Committee's consideration of the item (A/C.6/49/SR.7, 10, 13 and 40).

4. At its 13th meeting, on 19 October, the Committee decided to establish an open-ended Working Group on the item and elected Mr. Suresh Chaturvedi (India), Vice-Chairman of the Sixth Committee, as Chairman of the Working Group.

5. At the 40th meeting, on 25 November, the Chairman of the Working Group orally reported on the proceedings of the Working Group (see A/C.6/49/SR.40).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT DECISION A/C.6/49/L.16

6. At the 40th meeting, on 25 November, the Chairman of the Working Group introduced a draft decision on the item (A/C.6/49/L.16).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.6/49/L.16 without a vote (see para. 8 below).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

8. The Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Question of criteria for the granting of observer status in the General Assembly

The General Assembly, taking note of the oral report presented to the Sixth Committee on 25 November 1994 by the Chairman of the Working Group on the question of criteria for the granting of observer status in the General Assembly, 1/ decides that the granting of observer status in the General Assembly should in the future be confined to States and to those intergovernmental organizations whose activities cover matters of interest to the Assembly.

1/ See A/C.6/49/SR.40.